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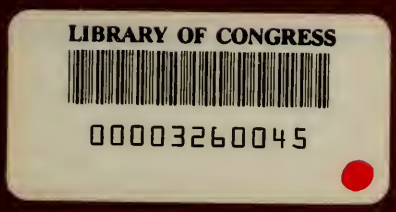

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MONUMENT TO COMMEMORATE THE BATTLE OF THE MONONGAHELA.

COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., April 19, 1910.

The committee met at 11 o'clock a. m., Hon. Samuel W. McCall in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN. This is a hearing on bill H. R. No. 12369, introduced by Mr. Dalzell, entitled "A bill for the erection of a monument to commemorate the battle historically known as 'the battle of the Monongahela,' commonly known as 'Braddock's defeat.'"

The bill is as follows:

[H. R. 12369, Sixty-first Congress, second session.]

A BILL For the erection of a monument to commemorate the battle historically known as "the battle of the Monongahela," commonly known as "Braddock's defeat."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of fifty thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended by "The Monument Association of the Battle of the Monongahela," under the direction of the Secretary of War, for the erection and completion on the battlefield of the battle historically known as "the battle of the Monongahela," commonly known as "Braddock's defeat," in the State of Pennsylvania, of a monument: *Provided*, That no part of the sum herein appropriated shall be available until "The Monument Association of the Battle of the Monongahela" shall have secured a site for said monument: *Provided further*, That the design for said monument shall be approved by the Secretary of War: *And provided further*, That the responsibility for the care and keeping of said monument and site shall be and remain with "The Monument Association of the Battle of the Monongahela," it being expressly understood that the United States shall have no responsibility therefor.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN DALZELL, OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Mr. DALZELL. Mr. Chairman, so far as the amount of money is concerned, perhaps $50,000 is more than Congress would be justified in appropriating at this time, but one-half of that amount, $25,000, it seems to me, might very well be appropriated.

The Monument Association of the Battle of the Monongahela is a corporation, not for profit, organized under the laws of Pennsylvania, for the purpose of acquiring a site and caring for a monument when erected.

The CHAIRMAN. It has a list of members, I suppose, who are prominent citizens of Allegheny County?

Mr. DALZELL. Yes; business men, many of them. One of them is librarian of the Carnegie Free Library in Braddock, another is minister of a United Presbyterian church there. He, I think, is secretary.

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The CHAIRMAN. Does not the city of Pittsburg generally take quite an interest in this movement?

Mr. DALZELL. It seems as though it would; in fact, all the citizens of Allegheny County, it would seem, should take an interest in it, and I think they do, and, indeed, the whole of western Pennsylvania is very much interested in it.

I have here, although I will not stop to read it to you, a letter from a gentleman in the adjoining county of Westmoreland, addressed to the French minister some years ago, endeavoring to enlist the interest of France in marking the route whereby Braddock went from Alexandria to this disastrous field, and marking also the place of Braddock's original burial as well as marking the battlefield.

The CHAIRMAN. Is Braddock buried there?

Mr. DALZELL. Braddock was buried in the neighborhood of Great Meadows while the army was in retreat. He was buried in the middle of the road, so as to conceal the whereabouts of his remains. Subsequently, however, his body was raised and carried to England.

I have not had the time, Mr. Chairman, to make any special preparation for the presentation of this matter, and I will read to you, before I say anything else on the subject, a communication that was addressed to the committee. It was prepared by the Rev. G. E. Hawes, of Braddock, Pa. It is a very able and interesting paper:

To the COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

GENTLEMEN: In asking for an appropriation for the purpose of suitably marking the battlefield of the battle of the Monongahela, commonly called "Braddock's defeat," the following reasons are urged:

First. This event must be ranked as one of the great pivotal events of American history. It is worthy of a place in a list made up of Jamestown, Plymouth Rock, Bunker Hill, Saratoga, Independence Hall, Gettysburg, and Manila Bay. Each of the above will be readily recognized by you, because each of these have been differentiated and their positions as pivotal events properly magnified.

The battle of the Monongahela will be seen by your committee to stand with them, because it was the real incident that began the great contest on American soil that was waged around the question, "What nation should hold and develop the great Mississippi Valley?" While there was some preliminary diplomatic skirmishing in Europe following the treaty of Aix-la Chapelle, and a slight military brush at Camp Necessity, the real movement began when Gen. Edward Braddock was sent to America to command all the military forces. His plans were never carried out by him; but they looked to operations against the French at Fort Duquesne, at Detroit, and the forts around Erie, Pa., and also against Montreal and Quebec. Such plans were captured by the French when they took possession of the booty on the field. The plans were subsequently carried out under Forbes at Fort Duquesne and Wolfe at Quebec. The Detroit feature going more by default at the time, but coming up as a bone of contention in our later war of 1812.

Our nation has recently celebrated the Louisiana Purchase. This was right and proper Your committee will recognize the close relationship between that event under President Jefferson and the great compaign planned in London, and which Braddock tried to work out in the operations he inaugurated here.

Another thing might be mentioned here, though it is somewhat afield from the chief point. It is that the war which was really begun out here in the wilderness of America proved to be one of the many bitter and bloody wars that were waged between England and France during the eighteenth century. Most of these battles, of course, were upon European soil. You gentlemen know how that century-long conflict ultimately turned to our profit in the days of our Revolution in giving us a friend in France, and a strong military factor in Marquis de La Fayette. It is enough for this to be suggested to you, without going at length into the long drawn out conflict which began far back in the history of the two races, and scarcely came to an end at Waterloo.

But our point concerns the relation between Braddock's defeat and our own national life. In the occupation of this continent it must be regarded as one of the momentous events. Here was inaugurated the great race war. The question was, shall Anglo-

Saxon, with all his ideas of civil and religious liberty, with his policy as a colonizer through the family, settle this wilderness? Or, should it be occupied by the people of Gallic race? How these two peoples have wrought is well known. We believe, of course, that the Anglo-Saxon is the better of the two. And that the best for this nation, born since 1755, was that the people who should govern this region should be the Anglo-Saxon. That was the real issue. The war began here. It was settled when the Americans and Englishmen gave their cheers of victory upon the Plains of Abraham.

The battle occurred on July 7, 1755. More than one hundred and fifty-three years have passed away and there has been no monument erected to commemorate this pivotal incident. The reasons for this are many. Some of the most prominent ones are, first, the victors on the field that day were the French. They were subsequently driven away from these regions. Later, by conquest and by purchases, they have ceased to be a ruling power upon the continent. Manifestly they would not mark the field even if they could. And you know that it would be well-nigh impossible for them to gain the consent of England, during colonial days, and the United States since 1876, to put a monument here to the memory of the brave Frenchmen under Captain Beaujeu. So far as known the French people never ventured to ask for it. However, it is known that when a movement was inaugurated about twenty years since to mark the field the French ambassador of that day was approached, and expressed himself as more than gratified that such a movement was on foot. Doubtless the present ambassador would entertain like thoughts.

What England might have done had she retained possession of this country after her victories under Forbes and Wolfe we can only guess. We know that the first act of General Forbes, after he had reduced Fort Duquesne, was to send a party to this ill-fated field and do all that he could to show respect to the memory of his fallen countrymen. But it was not left for England to work out any plan of memorial. The war of the Revolution broke out twenty years after the defeat, and when that war came to a close England had lost her dear-bought possession of the headwaters of the Ohio.

It is a matter of knowledge that the gentleman who was English ambassador at the time referred to in the preceding paragraph was enthusiastically in favor of some monument to tell of the brave Englishmen who fought and fell upon this field. Doubtless—as in the case of the French ambassador—the present representative of the Court of St. James would be glad to do something to-day.

The only people who could mark the field were ourselves. And the new nation born in 1776 had other tasks to perform than putting up monuments far out on the frontier. The eighteenth century closed with our nation working to establish itself. The nineteenth opened with a struggle against the "mother country." Even so recently as last summer a monument was unveiled at Fort Meigs, the address being given by our distinguished fellow-citizen, the President-elect. If we have been so long a time marking a place that means so much to Americans as the movement around the present city of Toledo, it is not to be wondered that as a nation we have been slow in marking an event that occurred twenty years before our history as a separate people really began. Be the reasons what they are, the fact is that very little attention has been paid to the subject until within a few years, when a very definite movement has been inaugurated looking to the marking of this famous historic field.

Of course there are particular reasons for asking that the place be marked beyond anything that has been suggested already. These reasons center in two things—the discovery of the American soldier, and the real discovery of the great leader of the American soldier. Whatever else occurred at this place, these two things certainly transpired. And the discovery of these two made possible the war for independence and the establishment of this as a free and independent Government.

Previous to the battle the colonists rated themselves as inferiors to the English regulars. This had been taught them and beaten into them until they firmly believed it. When they saw that the English regulars did not know how to handle themselves in border wars they lost their respect for them. They showed how thoroughly they had been disabused of their old veneration when they met them at Lexington and Bunker Hill, and kept on meeting them until they conquered them at Yorktown. This, if your committee will investigate, will be found to be a positive discovery. It was made by Captain Stewart when he lead his independent company out from the ranks to place his men behind the logs. His men were doing great execution. Nearly all the French and Indians who fell died by their hands. But Braddock would have none of it. He ordered them back. They obeyed; but they knew that Braddock did not know how to fight on the frontier. The colonists never forgot that.

Of course Colonel Washington had discovered the defect weeks before and had tried to have it corrected. He failed. The effect upon his mind the later years showed.

Speaking of Washington, of course he was the great discovery of that day. If for no other reason the field should be marked. While this was not his "baptism of fire," the previous skirmish was scarcely more than an incident. Here he fought for the two long, bloody hours. Men were falling all around him. Of those who crossed the river with him at 2 p. m. more than a thousand were hit by the enemy's bullets. It was real fighting, and out of it he emerged unscathed; also as the real hero of the terrible day. So marked was the country's appreciation of his conduct on this occasion that when a leader was wanted after the firing of the first guns in the Revolution the people of all the colonies turned to him. He took command at Cambridge. He never laid it down until after Yorktown, notwithstanding the many calumnies of military cabals. Braddock's defeat made him a marked man. You know the story of one of the Indian chiefs. After firing at him several shots and not hitting him, he was led to believe that "he was under the protection of the Great Spirit for some great purpose." Our national faith says the same thing. He was marked out that day to be "the savior of our country."

Not only did the field discover Washington, but it discovered many more men. The few French officers who were in the fight can be traced through the history of France in the years following. Captain de Lingeris was with Montcalm in his campaigns. He served at Quebec. By the fortunes of war he faced Colonel Burton on that field. He conquered him at Braddock. He was conquered by him at Quebec. But afterwards he served his country faithfully. His is but a case from among several others.

Among the men who rose to eminence in the English army several might be named. The most conspicuous was General Gage, who commanded the English troops at Boston at the breaking out of the war of 1775. The English records show others who held various posts of honor. Even Dunbar, who was not in the fight but was in the expedition, was made one of the first governors of Gibraltar.

Among those who fell on the day were Sir Peter Halket, a brave Scot. Also young Shirley, son of Governor Shirley, who, on the death of Braddock, succeeded to the command of the English troops in America. Captain Poulson was another who fought and fell. His gallantry was so conspicuous that when the Sixtieth Continental Regiment was organized his son was given a majorship, largely on the reputation of his distinguished father.

Perhaps one of the most interesting pages of this history is that which records the names of men who received their initiation into real war at this battle and afterwards served in the American Army in the Revolution. Washington, as was said above, was one of these. He needs no panegyric. Then there was Mercer. He died at Princeton. The United States Government has recently helped to erect a monument to his memory. Gen. Hugh Mercer, as a subaltern, was discovered at Brad dock's defeat.

If any of your committee have visited Saratoga you will remember that there are three statues in the niches of that monument. One of these is that of Gen. Philip Schuyler. General Schuyler gained his place because he had commanded the troops before he was relieved by General Gates. General Schuyler was not in the battle of Saratoga. The other two men whose statues appear in the monument are Generals Gates and Morgan. Both of these men were in Braddock's defeat. Captain Gates, as he was then, commanded a company and did much of the work of occupying the fords as the army advanced from place to place. His company developed the ground on the last crossing. After the troops were all over, he and his men took their place in the line and saw hard service in the battle. Daniel Morgan was a teamster in Braddock's army. Next to Washington, these men are most conspicuous.

Others who might be named would include Adam Stevens, who did splendid work in the early part of the Revolutionary war. His last fight was at Germantown—perhaps. Here his troops clashed with those of General Wayne. Stevens was blamed. But time has shown a disposition to give him credit for the good he did. Certainly at Braddock's defeat he acquitted himself well.

The conviction of the writer of this article is that if records were searched it would be found that a good many men who held positions as captains, majors, etc., in the New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia troops in the Revolutionary war were privates or noncommissioned officers in Braddock's army. Morgan is a suggestive case. He rose from a teamster with Braddock to one of the foremost figures of 1775–1783.

Braddock should not be overlooked. It is true that he blundered, and was defeated. But a careful study of his movement and his plans will show that he was a brave, efficient officer, according to European standards. His private character was no worse than many others of his day; perhaps it was not so good as that of many others in his profession of arms. He really was the victim of a system; the product of a school of military training.

But it is not for him so much as for Washington, Morgan, Gates, Stevens, Mercer, etc., among ourselves; Gage and Burton among the English; Beaujeau, Dumas, Ligneri, Carqueville, and others among the French, that the monument should be raised. As well let it be for some of the great Indian chiefs such as Pontiac, who are supposed to have been in the fight. But more especially because the fight discovered Washington and the man who put on a continental uniform and followed him through Valley Forge and Princeton and Brandywine to Yorktown, the man who has made victory possible in every war our country has waged, the American soldier, that this appropriation is asked.

Perhaps it may be said, "We do not mark defeats." But we have—some which were nothing more than defeats, without any future of worth. There is Custer's defeat. The field is splendidly marked, as it should be. Chickamauga is one of the best-marked fields of the South. The federal troops withdrew from it after three days' hard fighting. There is a monument at Lundys Lane. The people who claim to have won the day lost the war. Then, back in revolutionary days, there is Bunker Hill. Daniel Webster was not ashamed to dedicate that monument; and Americans are not ashamed of the defeat there, nor, indeed, of many others of that long war. Indeed, it is well known to your committee that we are marking many places to-day where in the clash of arms we may have been temporarily defeated, but where time shows that there was a semblance to victory in the discovery of a man or men. Braddock's defeat will easily stand on a par with any such place. All that Thomas was to Chickamauga, Washington was at Braddock, and more. Beyond the firing lines of the two fields even the most ardent admirer of General Thomas would say that we must not place him in comparison with "the father of our country." No real American will call that a "defeat" that gave to the world Washington.

We ask you to grant the appropriation, for it is believed that the event that it is proposed to commemorate deserves national recognition. And time has demonstrated that unless Congress does mark the field it will not be marked. It merits your help.

It will come to you also that this is an opportune time. Just a few months since Great Britain sent the Prince of Wales, in one of the nation's largest battle ships, to Quebec to attend upon the functions incident to the celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the victory of Wolfe. We honored ourselves as a nation by having our distinguished Vice-President represent us on that occasion. Our whole nation appreciated the fitness of this celebration.

May it be said there would have been no victory at Quebec to celebrate in 1908 if there had been no battle at the headwaters of the Ohio in 1755. Pittsburg has recently celebrated her sesquicentennial. That celebrated Forbes victory in 1758. The relationship between Braddock's defeat and Forbes's triumph is easily discerned.

An event so great in itself and so much interlocked with other memorable events will certainly appeal to your committee.

The CHAIRMAN. That is exceedingly well written; it is a very well-written paper, indeed. His reference to Bunker Hill is hardly a precedent, because, while they have raised a monument there, it was raised by private subscription, and the National Government did not appropriate for it.

Mr. DALZELL. But he simply mentions that as recognizing the propriety in certain cases of marking a defeat.

Mr. THOMAS. Where is Braddock situated?

Mr. DALZELL. Braddock is near Pittsburg. It is a city of probably 15,000 people. It is on the left bank of the Monongahela as you ascend that stream, and about 15 miles from the city of Pittsburg. It can hardly be said to be separate from Pittsburg, because for 20 miles up the Monongahela River there is one continuous city, and it is difficult to tell where Pittsburg ends and the adjoining borough begins.

The CHAIRMAN. It is next to Wilkinsburg?

Mr. DALZELL. No; there is Pittsburg, and then comes Wilkinsburg, Edgewood, Swissvale, Rankin, and then Braddock. Then East Pittsburg, Turtle Creek, Wilmerding, East McKeesport.

Braddock is now a great industrial center. It is the seat of the Edgar Thomson steel works, the largest manufacturing establishment

of steel rails in the United States, one of the subordinate works of the United States Steel Company. Braddock is a prosperous town. It has numerous churches and a fine school system, and a library founded by Andrew Carnegie and maintained by the borough.

Mr. THOMAS. This is one of the many historic battlefields in Pennsylvania?

Mr. DALZELL. Yes; there are at least three conspicuous battlefields in Pennsylvania, representing three distinct epochs; they are Germantown, Gettysburg, and Braddock.

Mr. THOMAS. Do not leave out Brandywine.

Mr. DALZELL. And then there is Brandywine. But those three represent distinct epochs. The battle of the Monongahela, otherwise known as "Braddock's defeat," represents our colonial period; Germantown—and Brandywine also—represents our Revolutionary period, and Gettysburg marks the turning of the tide in the great civil war.

The CHAIRMAN. Can you give us the number of men engaged, for instance?

Mr. DALZELL. Yes; I think I can.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Chairman, I want to say that I regret very much to have to leave, as I have another committee meeting which I promised to attend. I would therefore ask Mr. Dalzell to be as brief as he can.

Mr. DALZELL. I am substantially through.

Mr. THOMAS. I am very much interested, and, as you know, I am very friendly—except in political matters—to you; but I unfortunately have to go to another committee.

Mr. DALZELL. Perhaps as good a description as any of the meeting of the two armies preceding the battle of the Monongahela is to be found in Washington Irving's Life of Washington, where he describes in a very realistic way the British army and the colonials crossing the Monongahela River, the sunlight gleaming on their bayonets and showing their brilliant uniforms.

Mr. THOMAS. Which work of Irving is that?

Mr. DALZELL. In Washington Irving's Life of Washington. I have here an extract, which reads as follows:

> By sunrise the main body turned out in full uniform. At the beating of the general, their arms, which had been cleaned the night before, were charged with fresh cartridges. The officers were perfectly equipped. All looked as if arranged for a fête rather than a battle. Washington, who was still weak and unwell, mounted his horse and joined the staff of the general, who was scrutinizing everything with the eye of a martinet.
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> As it was supposed the enemy would be on the watch for the crossing of the troops, it had been agreed that they should do it in the greatest order, with bayonets fixed, colors flying, and drums and fifes beating and playing. They accordingly made a gallant appearance as they forded the Monongahela and wound along its banks and through the open forests, gleaming and glittering in morning sunlight, and stepping buoyantly to the Grenadier's March.

And in a very interesting article in the Historic Magazine, volume 7, page 265, which was written to eulogize General Beaujeu, it is said:

> The finest English army ever sent beyond the Atlantic to astonish the provincials and annihilate the French was Braddock's army.

Then the writer goes on to say:

> The Indians encamped under the Bourbon lilies by the waters of the Allegheny were Hurons, Iroquois, Shawnees, Pontiac, and Anastase Cornplanter (200 French, 600 Indians).

The French had anticipated the coming of the British forces and marched out from Fort Duquesne, which was at the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, the night before. They planted themselves in the ravines which ran at right angles to the river up along the north side and attacked the British forces and colonials as they marched down parallel with the river. Braddock insisted that his men should march as if they were on a parade ground.

The CHAIRMAN. That is, Braddock and his men were marching right along the river?

Mr. DALZELL. Yes. As the men were marching along the river, the Indians and French attacked them at right angles.

The CHAIRMAN. They had the river on one side and the Indians and the French on the other side?

Mr. DALZELL. They had the hill on the left, and the river on the right; and the ravines running from the river, separating the hills, furnished a hiding place for the French and Indians. The number engaged was 200 French and 600 Indians. The Braddock forces consisted of 1,460 officers and privates. This writer, to whom I made reference a few minutes ago, in speaking of Beaujeu, whom he much admires and eulogizes, says:

As he came to the crest of a hill over which the trail passed, he came full in view of the English line, coming proudly on, the summer sun glittering from the bayonets and muskets of the men, and the brilliant scarlet uniforms contrasting with the green foliage of the woods. They, too, marked with astonishment the sudden apparition of the French. Beaujeu was in the front, bounding on, brandishing his carbine and cheering his men to a mad attack on the very front of the well-appointed army before him, with artillery enough to sweep his whole command from the earth.

The writer describes in a very pathetic way Beaujeu's taking communion the night before he started out to meet the British. Beaujeu was killed in this battle.

The reason of the defeat, of course, was the persistence on the part of Braddock to fight according to rule. He could not be persuaded by Washington and the other colonials that the proper way to fight Indians was after Indian fashion. The consequence was that, with a very largely superior force, and, as this writer says, "artillery enough to sweep them from the face of the earth," they met a most disastrous slaughter.

I have already quoted from Irving's life of Washington. In another place Irving says:

The affair of Braddock remains a memorable event in American history, and has been characterized as "the most extraordinary victory ever obtained, and the farthest flight ever made." It struck a fatal blow to the deference for British prowess which once amounted almost to bigotry throughout the provinces. "This whole transaction," remarks Franklin in his Autobiography, "gave us the first suspicion that our exalted ideas of the prowess of British regular troops had not been well founded."

The CHAIRMAN. What were the casualties?

Mr. DALZELL. Of the 1,460 souls, officers and privates, who went into the combat, 456 were slain outright and 421 were wounded; making a total of 877. Of 89 commissioned officers, 63 were killed or wounded, not a solitary field officer escaping unhurt. Four hundred and fifty-six killed, 421 wounded, and 583 safe.

The number of women and servants killed can not be ascertained, since they are not entered on the roster of an army. Certain it is, however, that but three of the latter were spared.

I really, Mr. Chairman, can add nothing to what Doctor Hawes has so well said in the article that I read to you. The people of three nations, France, England, and the United States, are interested in marking the place so intimately connected with their destinies, the place where the contest opened which was fated to end in giving the control of this western continent to the people of the United States.

It is fitting that a monument should be erected on the field of the battle of the Monongahela and that Congress should provide the means to erect it.

(Adjourned.)

28

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